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In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) Method for closing off at least one tunnel extending across the width of a folding curtain, after a strengthening rod has been inserted into this tunnel, characterized in that a strengthening rod is provided in the tunnel, comprising at least at one extremity a number of pointed projections, and in that the tunnel is closed [[off]] by pricking the said projections through the wall of the tunnel.
2. (Previously amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the said projections are movable against the force of a spring.
3. (Previously amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the said projections are part of a terminal element, provided on the strengthening rod.
4. (Previously amended) Method according to claim 3, characterized in that the said terminal element is carried out in the form of a sleeve provided on the extremity of the strengthening rod.
5. (Previously amended) Method according to claim 3, characterized in that the terminal element is provided with a coiled spring in order to exert a spring force on the said projections.
6. (Currently amended) Folding curtain comprising at least one tunnel extending across the width of the curtain, which is provided with a strengthening rod, characterized in that the said strengthening rod comprises a number of pointed projections at least at one extremity and in that the said projections are pricking through the wall of the tunnel in order to close [[off]] the tunnel.

7. (Previously amended) Folding curtain according to claim 6, characterized in that the said projections are movable against a spring force.
8. (Previously amended) Folding curtain according to claim 6, characterized in that the said projections are part of a terminal element provided on the strengthening rod.
9. (Previously amended) Folding curtain according to claim 8, characterized in that the said terminal element comprises a sleeve-shaped jacket containing a coiled spring and an element provided with the said pointed projections and in that the element is movable against the spring force of the coiled spring.
10. (Previously amended) Folding curtain according to claim 9, characterized in that the element is provided with pointed projections made of synthetic material.
11. (Currently amended) Strengthening rod for a folding curtain, characterized in that at least one extremity of the said strengthening rod comprises a number of pointed projections and in that the said projections are provided to prick through the wall of the tunnel, in order to close ~~[[off]]~~ the tunnel.
12. (Previously amended) Strengthening rod according to claim 11, characterized in that the said projections are part of a terminal element provided on the strengthening rod.
13. (Previously amended) Strengthening rod according to claim 11, characterized in that the said strengthening rod comprises a sleeve-shaped jacket containing a coiled spring and an element provided with the said pointed projections and in that the element is movable against the spring force of the coiled spring from a first to a second position, the element in its second position being situated within the space surrounded by the sleeve-shaped jacket.

14. (Previously amended) Strengthening rod according to claim 11, characterized in that the said strengthening rod is provided in a folding curtain according to any one of the claims 6 up to and including 10.